

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment cancels Claims 1 to 5, 9 and 12, which were directed to the Species elected for prosecution in parent Application No. 09/337,548, and adds new Claims 15 to 17. Entry of the amendment and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patent No. 4,488,245  
U.S. Patent No. 4,928,167  
U.S. Patent No. 5,057,931  
U.S. Patent No. 5,181,105  
U.S. Patent No. 5,467,196  
U.S. Patent No. 5,696,839  
U.S. Patent No. 5,717,783  
U.S. Patent No. 5,748,773  
U.S. Patent No. 6,463,172  
Europe 0 372 390  
Germany 43 09 879

U.S. Patent No. 6,463,172 issued from Application No. 09/255,866, which was cited in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/337,548. The other references listed above were also cited in parent U.S. Patent Application No. 09/337,548, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given therein. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the Patent and Trademark Office files for review of these documents. See MPEP § 609. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the attached form PTO-1449.

CONCLUSION

Applicants undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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